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Report of the Population Commission Acting as the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Meeting on Population

SUMMARY

The Population Commission Acting as the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Meeting on Population met at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 8 March 1991. After the election of officers and adoption of the agenda, the Preparatory Committee considered a broad variety of activities relating to the 1994 Meeting, including its objectives, nature, organization and financial implications. In addition to its report, the Preparatory Committee recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft resolution proposing further action relating to the 1994 Meeting, including the holding of six expert group meetings and two additional sessions of the Committee.

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I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Draft resolution

1. The Population Commission Acting as the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Meeting on Population, recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International Conference on Population and Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3344 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 on the United Nations World Population Conference, 37/14 B of 16 November 1982 on Secretariat organization for United Nations special conferences, 39/228 of 18 December 1984 on the International Conference on Population, 44/210 of 22 December 1989 on future needs in the field of population, including the development of resource requirements for international population assistance, S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, containing the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 45/199 of 21 December 1990, containing the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 45/206 of 21 December 1990 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and 45/216 of 21 December 1990 on population and development,

Recalling also its resolution 1989/91 of 26 July 1989, in which it decided to convene an international meeting on population in 1994, under the auspices of the United Nations,

Noting with satisfaction the appointment of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund as Secretary-General of the 1994 international meeting on population and of the Director of the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs as the Deputy Secretary-General of the meeting,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for a 1994 international meeting on population 1/ and the progress made in the preparations for the meeting,

Emphasizing the national sovereignty of all countries in formulating, adopting and implementing their population policies, mindful of their culture, values and traditions, as well as of their social,

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1/ E/1991/5.

economic and political conditions, and consistent with human rights and with the responsibilities of individuals, couples and families,

1. Decides that the meeting should henceforth be called the International Conference on Population and Development;

2. Invites the Secretary-General of the Conference and all concerned organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in carrying out the preparatory activities of the Conference, to draw on the guidelines provided in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 2/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 3/ as well as on the results of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 4/ the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, 5/ and to draw on other recent major intergovernmental instruments and meetings;

3. Decides that the objectives of the Conference should be:

(a) To contribute to the review and appraisal of the progress made in reaching the objectives, goals and recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action 6/ and to identify the obstacles encountered;

(b) To identify instruments and mechanisms in order to ensure the operational implementation of the recommendations;

(c) To maintain and strengthen the level of awareness of population issues on the international agenda and their linkage to development;

(d) To consider the desired focus of intensified action at the global, regional and national levels, as well as all necessary ways and means of treating population issues in their proper developmental perspective during the forthcoming decade and beyond;

2/ General Assembly resolution S-18/3.

3/ General Assembly resolution 45/199.

4/ A/45/695.

5/ See Report of the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 6-9 November 1989 (New York, United Nations Population Fund, 1989).

6/ See Report of the United Nations Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

(e) To adopt a set of recommendations for the next decade in order to respond to the population and development issues of high priority identified in paragraph 4 below;

(f) To enhance the mobilization of resources needed, especially in developing countries, for the implementation of the results of the Conference; resources should be mobilized at the international and national levels by each country according to its capacity;

4. Emphasizes that population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development will be the overall theme of the Conference and identifies within that theme the following groups of issues, which are not listed in any order of priority, as those requiring the greatest attention, during the forthcoming decade, from the international community and from the Conference:

(a) Population growth, changes in demographic structure, including ageing of population, and the regional diversity of such changes, with particular emphasis on interaction between demographic variables and socio-economic development;

(b) Population policies and programmes, with emphasis on the mobilization of resources for developing countries, at the international and national levels by each country according to its capacity;

(c) The interrelationships between population, development, environment and related matters;

(d) Changes in the distribution of population, including socio-economic determinants of internal migration and the consequences for urban and rural development, as well as determinants and consequences of all types of international migration;

(e) Linkages between enhancing the roles and socio-economic status of women and population dynamics, including adolescent motherhood, maternal and child health, education and employment, with particular reference to the access of women to resources and the provision of services;

(f) Family-planning programmes, health and family well-being;

5. Stresses the need, in connection with foregoing issues, to take account of the particular circumstances of the least developed countries;

6. Authorizes the Secretary-General of the Conference to convene six expert group meetings corresponding to the six groups of issues identified in paragraph 4 above, in order to provide the required input for consideration by the Conference, ensuring the participation of a full range of relevant disciplines and of geographical regions.

7. Requests the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to provide overall guidance, orientation and coordination of the input from the appropriate secretariats of the United Nations system to the preparatory activities of the Conference;

8. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to make use of the substantive contribution of all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system concerned, as well as of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the preparatory activities for the Conference;

9. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to make full use of the existing resources of all concerned units of the United Nations system, in particular the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Population Fund;

10. Invites the regional commissions to convene as soon as possible meetings or conferences to review the experience gained in population policies and programmes in their regions, in the light of paragraphs 3 and 4 above, bearing in mind the relationship between such policies and programmes and development issues, and to propose future action, as part of their contribution to the preparatory activities for the Conference;

11. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to report to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular sessions of 1992, 1993 and 1994 on the progress made in all aspects of the preparatory activities for the Conference;

12. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to report to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the state of the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development;

13. Decides, in principle, to hold the second session of the Preparatory Committee in August 1993, immediately following the rescheduled twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission, to review the state of the preparatory work, including the reports of the expert groups on their meetings;

14. Decides, in principle, to hold the third session of the Preparatory Committee early in 1994 to review the documentation for the Conference, including the draft recommendations;

15. Recommends that the General Assembly consider establishing a voluntary fund for the purpose of supporting the developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process and that it invite Governments to contribute to such a fund;

16. Requests the Conference to report to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly.

II. DRAFT PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE 1994 INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON POPULATION

2. The Preparatory Committee considered the draft provisional rules of procedure for the 1994 International Meeting on Population (E/CONF.84/PC/2) at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 6 and 8 March 1991. The rules of procedure were similar to those adopted for the 1984 International Conference on Population.

3. Some delegations suggested that rule 60, which defined the status of non-governmental organizations, be revised to increase the role of non-governmental organizations in the preparations for the Meeting and their participation in the Meeting itself. The representative of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I, suggested that the Preparatory Committee make provisions to ensure that those non-governmental organizations with consultative status be fully involved in the various activities of the Committee and in the 1994 Meeting.

Action taken by the Committee

4. At the 6th meeting, on 8 March, following statements by the representatives of Ghana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community) and the United States of America, the Preparatory Committee decided to defer consideration of the draft provisional rules of procedure to a subsequent session.

III. INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON POPULATION

5. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 4 at its 1st to 4th and 6th meetings, on 4 to 6 and 8 March 1991. The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for a 1994 international meeting on population (E/1991/5).

6. In her opening statement, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Secretary-General of the 1994 International Meeting on Population said that the convening of such a meeting was timely and appropriate as the international community was endeavouring to achieve a greater balance between population, resources and development. The 1994 Meeting would be unique in many respects, not least in that it would combine technical, policy and operational considerations in an unprecedented manner. She mentioned several international and national declarations and statements, particularly the Amsterdam Declaration on a Better Life for Future Generations, adopted in 1989 by the International Forum on Population in the

Twenty-first Century, 7/ which had forcefully endorsed the central population issues in the overall development process. The 1994 Meeting would play a fundamental part in helping to promote the actions necessary for sustained and sustainable development.

7. She said that the preparations for the Meeting reflected the notable advances that had been made in the population field, particularly by developing countries in implementing population policies and programmes, as well as the enormous needs and challenges of the future. Those preparations were based on the assumption that the principles and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action and the recommendations for its further implementation remained fully valid and continued to provide a policy framework for population activities at the national, regional and global levels. Some issues remained unresolved, however, and others had emerged recently, among them the need to reinforce previous recommendations that urgently required new action. That was critically important in the context of 20 years of policy and operational experience and the increasing focus on the multifaceted nature of most of the issues faced by countries today.

8. She noted that the objectives of the Meeting, as set out by the Economic and Social Council, included an assessment of the progress made and identification of the lessons learned in carrying out national population programmes and in reaching the objectives, goals and recommendations of the Plan of Action. Other objectives were to heighten the level of awareness of population issues on the international agenda; to provide guidance at the global, regional and national levels to ensure that population issues of the highest order were addressed during the next decade; and to adopt a consolidated set of recommendations to guide the implementation of population policies and programmes.

9. She stated that the overall theme of the Meeting would be the seriousness, complexity and growing urgency of population issues in the context of the general efforts to pave the way towards sustained and sustainable development in the next decade and to deal with the critical role of population variables in achieving sustainable development. Within that framework, six overarching topics had been proposed: population, environment and development; changing population growth and structures; population redistribution; international migration; women and population; and population policies and programmes.

10. For the Meeting to achieve its important goals, she said, a series of preparatory activities were planned, involving the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, other bodies of the United Nations system and other international organizations. The Secretary-General of the 1994 Meeting also noted that several regional intergovernmental meetings would be held as part of the preparatory work for the 1994 Meeting. The Fourth Asian and Pacific

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7/ A/C.2/44/6, annex.

Population Conference, scheduled for August 1992, was being organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in cooperation with UNFPA. It was anticipated that other regional population conferences would be convened by the regional commissions in cooperation with UNFPA between mid-1992 and mid-1993 to assess regional experiences and chart specific strategies for the current decade. The results of those conferences would be made available to the Preparatory Committee at its second session, in 1993, and to the International Meeting on Population itself.

11. Several other important activities that would offer valuable information and guidance for the preparation of the documentation for the 1994 Meeting included the review and assessment exercise undertaken by UNFPA, the monitoring of population trends and policies, the Seventh United Nations Population Inquiry among Governments (to be carried out during the biennium 1992-1993), and the results of a wide range of specialized meetings, including those of the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held at Amsterdam in November 1989.

12. A small number of expert group meetings had also been planned as part of the preparatory work. The Secretary-General of the 1994 Meeting proposed to explore suitable arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the second session of the Preparatory Committee, as well as in the 1994 Meeting itself.

13. The arrangements proposed for the preparation of the 1994 Meeting had been based on the need for maximum economy, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1989/91. It had been suggested that no separate secretariat be established for the Meeting. Rather, the secretariat would be organized primarily through the redeployment of existing resources of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and UNFPA.

14. In consultation with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, she reported that UNFPA would be responsible for coordination of the overall organizational preparations for the Meeting, including the procurement of financial resources, the preparation of public information and communication activities, the promotion of regional and national preparatory activities and the maintenance of close relationships with national Governments. UNFPA would provide programme-related substantive information to help ensure the operational orientation of the Meeting. Similarly, in consultation with UNFPA, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs would be responsible for coordinating the substantive aspects of the preparations for the Meeting, including the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action and the formulation of draft recommendations.

15. Many delegations commended the Secretariat for the quality of the documentation produced for the session. They also stressed that the future work of the Preparatory Committee would be greatly facilitated if the relevant documents were made available in all official languages well in advance of its meetings.

16. A large number of delegations thanked the Secretary-General of the 1994 International Meeting on Population for her thoughtful and comprehensive statement to the Committee. Her statement was considered an excellent introduction for the deliberations of the first session of the Preparatory Committee.

A. Objectives and format

17. Many delegations emphasized the importance of the World Population Plan of Action 8/ and the recommendations for its further implementation. 9/ The Plan's role as a source of guidance for Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations was stressed. It was noted, however, that the international community remained far from achieving the objectives set forth in the Plan of Action. In addition, several delegations noted that, whereas the majority of the recommendations of the Plan remained valid, a number had lost relevance in the light of changes that had taken place in the world demographic picture over the past 20 years.

18. Many delegations noted that the objectives of the 1994 International Meeting on Population proposed by the Secretary-General in his report were generally in correspondence with their views. There was general agreement with the first three objectives proposed, namely, (a) to participate in the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action, (b) to maintain and strengthen the level of awareness of population issues and (c) to provide guidance on their treatment. In relation to the fourth objective, that is, to adopt a set of recommendations for the next decade, several delegations suggested that the objective be elaborated and made more specific. While some delegations recommended that the fourth objective should only make reference to the issues of primary concern for the next decade, others suggested that reference should be made to updating the Plan of Action.

19. Several delegations were of the view that the objectives of the 1994 Meeting should take the fullest account of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, which had recently been adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 45/199); the Amsterdam Declaration, adopted in 1989 by the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century; and the conclusions of the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly.

8/ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

9/ Report of the International Conference on Population, Mexico City, 6-14 August 1984 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8 and corrigenda).

20. Many delegations suggested that the 1994 Meeting be called a "conference" instead of a "meeting". It should have a single overarching theme within which specific topics and issues could be considered. Two of the themes suggested were population and development, and population and sustainable development.

21. Many delegations noted that, given the nature and magnitude of changes since the 1974 World Population Conference and the 1984 International Conference on Population, there was a need to update the recommendations accordingly and to address the issue of population within the broader perspective of development. It was hoped that the 1994 Meeting would promote greater cooperation within the international community in the field of population and development. In addition, several delegations considered that the Meeting should review the demographic changes that had occurred since the 1984 Conference, with a view to formulating a new programme of action in the area of population.

22. One delegation, speaking on behalf of a large group of delegations, noted that the report on preparations for a 1994 international meeting on population (E/1991/5) provided a good basis for the work of the Preparatory Committee. It noted, however, that in order to ensure a satisfactory outcome of the 1994 Meeting, population questions must not be examined in isolation or only in terms of their technical aspects, but must be inextricably linked to development. To that end, no particular sectoral concern should be given prominence, as it was considered that other sectoral issues relevant to population and development were of equal importance and concern.

23. One delegation, speaking on behalf of a number of others, observed that there was a need to address the complex interrelationship between population growth and development, in order to improve the standard of living and quality of life by bringing about a sustainable relationship between human numbers, resources, development and the environment. The delegation added that the 1994 Meeting should result in a new document with a set of operational recommendations.

24. Another delegation, speaking on behalf of another group, stressed that it was important that the outcome of the 1994 Meeting be concrete and operational. Those delegations would welcome a clear setting of priorities and fewer, but more specific, actions and recommendations emanating from the Meeting, instead of a long and vague plan of action. Moreover, the recommendations of the 1974 World Population Conference and the 1984 International Conference on Population should be consolidated. Those delegations continued to attach special importance to the issues of family planning, the role and status of women, the environment and rural-to-urban migration and international migration.

25. A number of delegations supported the view that the 1994 Meeting should give more attention to making operational recommendations. The relationship between population and development should receive high priority and should be the major focus of the preparatory work and of the Meeting itself. Reasons

for the failure to fully implement the recommendations of the 1974 World Population Conference and the 1984 International Conference on Population should also be analysed.

26. Several delegations indicated that the 1994 Meeting would provide an opportunity to promote greater awareness of population issues and their interrelationship with developmental and environmental concerns. In that regard, they noted that the Meeting's primary goal should be to expand the scope of the efforts to stabilize population growth as a part of national development and conservation strategies in support of sustainable development.

27. One delegation emphasized that three issues should be taken into account in preparing for the Meeting: (a) national leaders must have the necessary institutional and managerial capacity to plan and implement effective population policies and programmes; (b) community participation in designing and implementing policies and programmes must be ensured; and (c) women must be fully involved at all levels in planning and implementing programmes.

B. Issues to be discussed

28. Most delegations indicated their interest in the six major issues that had been identified for the 1994 Meeting. They stressed, however, that those issues should be addressed within the general theme of population and development. It was also emphasized that the policy aspects of every issue should be discussed by each of the proposed expert group meetings, a strategy that would be most likely to lead to operational recommendations.

29. Several delegations stated that the topics suggested in the document under discussion had been well chosen. Some attention, however, should be given to the elaboration of the focus of the expert groups.

30. Some delegations considered that environment should not be considered as a separate issue, while others held the view that environment should be addressed specifically within the context of sustainable development. More specifically, several delegations proposed that the theme of population, environment and development should be changed to population and development.

31. Some delegations suggested that attention should also be accorded to changes in world population size and age structure, acceleration in rural-to-urban migration, urbanization and the deterioration of the environment. Several delegations referred to the importance of addressing the role of women, the family, questions of health, morbidity and mortality, accessibility to family-planning services and the need for adequate resources to implement population programmes.

32. Some delegations suggested that family planning be considered as a separate issue, given its relevance to the work of the United Nations in the field of population. They added that family planning should be high on the

agenda of the Meeting in so far as family-planning programmes had contributed to the decline of fertility in many developing countries.

33. Several delegations emphasized that the issue of ageing should be given adequate attention and should be dealt with in depth. It was suggested that the issue of demographic ageing could be properly considered in the context of population structure.

34. Several delegations stated that the theme of population redistribution should be reformulated so as to explicitly include the problem of internal migration. Specifically, the work of the expert group on migration should take into consideration the different forms of internal migration, including movement between cities, from one rural area to another and from cities to rural areas, as well as from rural to urban areas. More emphasis could thereby be given to the importance of balanced regional development.

35. A number of delegations stated that the question of international migration would be an important issue for consideration by the 1994 Meeting. Some added that the discussion should include the determinants and consequences of international migration, as well as the important issue of refugees.

36. One delegation stressed the need to take account of the population problems of the least developed countries and the necessity of drawing upon the useful work carried out by the United Nations in that area.

37. The representative of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I, suggested that the 1994 Meeting provide authoritative status reports reflecting the demographic and population trends of the past decade. It should also consider the larger needs for family planning today and in the twenty-first century in the light of the lessons learned, and consider the best strategies to meet those needs. The representative of The Population Council, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II, noted that family planning and other reproductive health programmes should be given explicit attention as the focus of one of the expert group meetings. The scope of the planned expert group meeting on women and population should also be broadened to consider the wider and longer-term effects for women's health and social and economic well-being. The representative of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II, offered its full cooperation in the scientific preparation for the 1994 Meeting.

C. Nature of the preparatory work

38. It was emphasized that the regional commissions should be fully involved in the preparatory activities for the 1994 Meeting. Their participation would ensure that regional issues and viewpoints were adequately reflected in the final set of recommendations to be adopted. The timing of regional conferences should be such as to ensure that their output would be available to the Preparatory Committee well in advance of the 1994 Meeting.

39. Some delegations considered that the organization of the expert group meetings should ensure effective participation by developing countries. It was further suggested that the six priority themes be regrouped to reflect a more comprehensive handling of population and development and, if possible, to reduce the proposed number of expert group meetings.

40. Several delegations expressed their agreement with the suggestion made by the Secretary-General of the 1994 Meeting that experts involved in the preparatory work would participate in their personal capacity. Several delegations also suggested that full use be made of government experts. It was noted that it might be desirable to have scientific experts and government experts work together from the very beginning of the preparatory process. It was also suggested that some experts be invited to the 1994 Meeting as resource persons.

41. Several delegations stressed the importance of the substantive findings of the expert group meetings and expressed the hope that those findings would be reflected and properly taken into account in the recommendations of the 1994 Meeting.

42. One delegation suggested that an open-ended working group be convened at United Nations Headquarters to review the progress of the preparations for the 1994 Meeting, in particular the results of the expert group meetings.

43. The proposal made by the Secretary-General requesting the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to establish a task force for the Meeting, ensuring inter-agency coordination, was welcomed. It was noted that the specialized agencies would be invited to participate in the expert group meetings according to their area of expertise.

44. There was wide support for the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory activities for the 1994 Meeting and for their participation in the Meeting itself.

D. Organizational matters

45. Several delegations noted that coordination of the preparatory work within the United Nations system would be necessary to ensure the success of the 1994 Meeting. It was recognized that there was a need for coordination

among the various organizations of the United Nations system and for incorporating the results of other important meetings on population.

46. Many delegations suggested that two more sessions of the Preparatory Committee would be needed to complete all the necessary work before the 1994 Meeting. Some expressed the view that the second session of the Preparatory Committee might be convened in conjunction with the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission in 1993 in order to facilitate review by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, to benefit from the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992, and to allow for discussion of the results of the expert group meetings. The third session of the Preparatory Committee could then take place in early 1994.

47. The representative of the International Planned Parenthood Federation emphasized that grass-roots organizations should be involved in all aspects of the preparatory work for the Meeting. The representative of The Population Council requested that concerned non-governmental organizations be fully involved in the preparatory process and in the Meeting itself. The Population Council offered its collaboration in the planning and implementation of the expert group meeting on women and population.

48. The representative of Tunisia reiterated an offer, made by the Minister of Health of the Government of Tunisia during the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held at Amsterdam in November 1989, to host the 1994 Meeting, and officially presented the candidature of Tunisia to host that Meeting.

49. The representative of Egypt also announced his Government's willingness to host the 1994 Meeting.

50. The representative of Germany stated that her Government was currently negotiating with UNFPA and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs to hold one expert group meeting at the premises of the German Foundation for International Development, in Berlin.

51. The representative of China stressed his Government's interest in an expert group meeting on the issue of family planning. If an expert group meeting were to be organized, his Government would be prepared to host such a meeting, with financial support from other sources.

52. The representative of Italy stated that, if asked, his Government could evaluate the possibility of hosting one of the expert group meetings, for example, that on international migration.

53. The representative of France indicated his Government's willingness to host one of the six expert group meetings.

54. The Secretary-General of the 1994 Meeting explained that the secretariat for the Meeting would consist of staff from the Department of International

Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Population Fund. A steering committee, made up of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation and representatives of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development and the United Nations Population Fund had already met twice. At future meetings, it might enlarge its membership to include other relevant units of the United Nations Secretariat.

55. Mention was made of the desirability of providing adequate funding to ensure the full participation of developing countries in the preparatory work for the 1994 Meeting. The Secretary-General of the Meeting said that special consideration might have to be given to the participation of some developing countries.

E. Financial implications

56. The Preparatory Committee discussed the financial implications of convening the 1994 Meeting, including the preparatory activities. The subject was introduced by a representative of the Secretariat, who referred to section V of the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for a 1994 meeting on population (E/1991/5). In introducing the report, the representative noted that all costs were currently included in the programme budget proposals for the biennium 1992-1993. The Secretary-General would seek resources and would inform the General Assembly on the extent to which such resources could be made available. The representative drew the attention of the Committee to the proposal concerning expert group meetings and the expert group servicing costs presented in paragraphs 68 and 69 of the report.

57. Delegations agreed that the 1994 Meeting and its preparatory activities should be carried out as economically as possible. There was considerable discussion concerning the proportion of costs that should be met from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary sources. Some delegations suggested that costs be met solely or mainly from within the United Nations programme budget, similar to the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and consistent with the principle of burden-sharing. However, it was also suggested that extrabudgetary resources be utilized to the fullest extent possible in order to minimize the burden on the regular programme budget of the United Nations and on the operational activities of the United Nations Population Fund.

58. Delegations expressed concern that the Governments of some developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, would lack the resources to participate fully in the preparatory activities and in the 1994 Meeting. It was proposed that modalities be developed to ensure the participation of those Governments.

59. One delegation noted that the report of the Secretary-General considered the mobilization of resources to carry out revised recommendations of the

World Population Plan of Action and that the Secretary-General of the Meeting should suggest scenarios for obtaining the necessary resources.

60. Delegations noted that the financial implications and the questions concerning the nature and type of organizational activities were complex and that it was not practical to discuss financial implications until agreement had been obtained on organizational activities. In that context, the Preparatory Committee discussed options with respect to future sessions of the Committee and the expert group meetings.

61. Concerning future sessions of the Preparatory Committee, delegations were in favour of holding the second and third sessions in August 1993 and February 1994. There was considerable discussion on the timing of those meetings and the need to coordinate them with the dates of regional preparatory meetings, expert group meetings and documentation, while at the same time scheduling them so as to minimize the cost implications. In that context, some delegations suggested that the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission be delayed so that it could be held together with the second session of the Preparatory Committee. That option would require the Economic and Social Council to resume its second regular session in order to consider the report of the Population Commission.

62. Many delegations offered suggestions on ways to minimize the financial implications of the expert group meetings. Some delegations urged that the fullest possible use be made of activities included in the regular programme of work of the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and of the United Nations Population Fund in the preparations for the 1994 Meeting as a way of minimizing the number of preparatory expert group meetings and their size. A representative of the Secretariat pointed out that the purpose of the expert group meetings was to formulate action-oriented recommendations for Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in line with the World Population Plan of Action. The proposed expert group meetings should draw from and build on, inter alia, the research and policy findings of regular United Nations activities to produce operational plans of action.

63. Certain delegations expressed the view that in order to minimize costs, the possibility of limiting the working language of the expert group meetings to English could be considered, as long as there were no implications for the selection of experts. Reports prepared for the expert groups could be submitted in any working language; the recommendations and conclusions of the expert groups would be made available in all working languages. One delegation noted that there could be a compromise between the use of English only and interpretation in all six working languages; the language facilities available could be determined by the experts invited. Some delegations suggested that the reports of the expert group meetings be made available in all the official languages of the United Nations.

64. One delegation expressed concern that no budgeting for the regional conferences was indicated, except for the participation of one staff member

from the Secretariat. It was not clear how the regional meetings would be integrated into the preparatory process. The representative of the Secretariat stated that no additional budgeting was indicated because the regional meetings would be conducted independently from the 1994 Meeting.

65. Some delegations expressed concern that the number of professional work-months contributed by the Population Division and UNFPA to the preparatory work for the 1994 Meeting might not be adequate. The representative of the Secretariat indicated that the number indicated was for staff resources dedicated exclusively to the preparatory work and that the regular programme of work was also being oriented to contribute to preparations for the Meeting.

F. Action taken by the Preparatory Committee

1. Changing population growth and structures

66. At the 6th meeting, on 8 March, the representative of the Dominican Republic, on behalf of Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Honduras, introduced a draft resolution (E/CONF.84/PC/L.3) entitled "Changing population growth and structures", which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982, by which the Assembly endorsed the International Plan of Action on Ageing, whose ultimate objective is the effective adjustment of societies to the ageing of populations,

"Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 40/30 of 29 November 1985, in which the Assembly emphasized that the elderly must be considered an important and necessary element in the development process at all levels within a given society,

"Taking into consideration that the total global population aged sixty years and over will increase from 487 million in 1990 to 612 million in the year 2000 and 1.2 billion in the year 2025,

"Taking also into consideration that by the year 2025 seventy-one per cent of the over sixty population will be living in developing countries, which are the least prepared economically, socially and culturally to cope with this tremendous increase in their elderly population,

"Concerned that the dramatic growth of the elderly population is posing a number of problems in such areas as the dependency burden, income consumption, savings, social security schemes, health care systems, informal support systems, particularly the family, labour force participation, mobility and productivity,

"Also concerned that the problems associated with the ageing of populations are not limited to the aged but affect other population age groups, families, households and society at large,

"Requests that the issue of population ageing and its interrelationship with development be given in-depth consideration in the international meeting on population planned to be held in 1994."

67. Following statements by the representatives of Canada, the Dominican Republic and the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community), as well as by the Secretary-General of the 1994 International Meeting on Population, the sponsors agreed that the concerns raised in draft resolution E/CONF.84/PC/L.3 would be addressed in a draft resolution on an international conference on population and development (see paras. 67-68). Consequently, no action was taken on draft resolution E/CONF.84/PC/L.3.

2. International Conference on Population and Development

68. At the 6th meeting, on 8 March, the Preparatory Committee had before it an informal paper containing a draft resolution on an international conference on population and development.

69. Following statements by the representatives of Bangladesh, Egypt, Canada, Ghana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community), India, the United States of America, Norway, Colombia, Cuba, Belgium, Turkey, China, Tunisia and Brazil, the Preparatory Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in the informal paper, as orally amended during the discussion (see chap. I, draft resolution). The draft resolution was subsequently circulated as a Chairman's text (E/CONF.84/PC/L.4).

IV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON ITS FIRST SESSION

70. At its 6th meeting, on 8 March 1991, the Preparatory Committee adopted the draft report on its first session (E/CONF.84/PC/L.2 and Add.1-2), as amended during the discussion.

V. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

71. The Population Commission Acting as the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Meeting on Population was held at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 8 March 1991. The Committee held six meetings (1st to 6th).

72. The session was opened by the Secretary-General of the 1994 International Meeting on Population.

73. The Secretary-General of the Meeting made an introductory statement.

B. Attendance

74. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/91, the Population Commission Acting as the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Meeting on Population met in open-ended session with the participation of any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Commission and of any other State.

75. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

76. The following non-member State was represented by an observer: Holy See.

77. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization and World Bank.

78. The following intergovernmental organizations attended the meeting as observers: Organisation of the Islamic Conference and Organization of American States.

79. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council attended the meeting as observers:

(a) Category I: International Chamber of Commerce, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Planned Parenthood Federation

(b) Category II: International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE), International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, The Population Council, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

(c) Roster: Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography (CICRED), Population Communications - International

C. Election of officers

80. At its 1st, 3rd, 5th and 6th meetings, on 4 to 6 and 8 March 1991, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Michael George Okeyo (Kenya)

Vice-Chairmen: Jerzy Z. Holzer (Poland)
Fikret Uçcan (Turkey)
José María Borbon (Costa Rica)

Vice-Chairman cum Rapporteur: Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury (Bangladesh)

D. Agenda

81. At its 1st meeting, on 4 March, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CONF.84/PC/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Draft provisional rules of procedure for the 1994 international meeting on population.

4. International meeting on population.

5. Adoption of the report.

E. Documentation

82. The Preparatory Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for a 1994 international meeting on population (E/1991/5);

(b) Provisional agenda (E/CONF.84/PC/1);

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional rules of procedure for the 1994 international meeting on population (E/CONF.84/PC/2);

(d) Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work (E/CONF.84/PC/L.1/Rev.1);

(e) Draft report (E/CONF.84/PC/L.2 and Add.1-2);

(f) Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Honduras: draft resolution (E/CONF.84/PC/L.3);

(g) Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman (E/CONF.84/L.4).